



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 27, 2017

Lisa Wood
SEPA\NEPA Coordinator
WDFW Regulatory Services Section
600 Capital Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: DNS 17-020

Dear Ms. Wood:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the determination of nonsignificance for the Tim's Pond Access Site Renovation. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

SHORELANDS/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

Ecology had the opportunity to review a preliminary drawing of this proposal in the field with Yakima County planning staff on March 16, 2017. Ecology has the following comments regarding the current proposal:

Only shrubs and trees, including grasses, which are native to eastern Washington should be used to revegetate disturbed areas around the pond and buffer mitigation areas. Ecology recommends that disturbed wetland buffer areas be planted thickly with trees and shrubs to discourage entry. The currently listed mitigation plantings with the SEPA checklist only include grasses.

A shoreline variance permit will be required for this project.

The place where the RV pad is proposed, which is now a blocked old road bed with gravel or dirt just off the parking lot at the western part of the site and adjacent to a mound of dirt, was partially covered by flood waters on the day of the site visit (March 16). It would be important to know what frequency the flood event was on that day in order to plan appropriately for the site development and to assure that structures and fill are not being placed in a floodway area. In addition, the vault toilet should be constructed in such a way as to not deteriorate over time and leak into the pond waters.

In a previous e-mail to County Planning after the site visit, Ecology wetland specialist, Cathy Reed, offered these comments which we would also like to be included in the record:

Widening of the existing narrow trail on the west part of the proposed loop will likely have a small amount of wetland impacts. If this area will not be paved, Ecology recommends that a smaller width trail be used to minimize intrusion into shoreline wetland buffers. If the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife would stipulate to the presence of wetlands in that location, then Ecology would not require a formal wetland delineation, but there would need to be mitigation for the areas impacted in accordance with the requirements of the Yakima County Shoreline Master Plan. Ecology would not have objections to the issuance of a shoreline variance for buffer impacts or minor wetland intrusion for the existing pathway



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improvements, as long as the impacts are minimized as much as possible given the desire for ADA access.

Wetland impact mitigation could be done in part by revegetating a cleared area that already exists on the west part of the parking lot. Perhaps removal of an existing RV space and revegetating that could be considered. From your description, it also sounds like the west part of the pond trail would not necessarily be altered significantly from the existing trail – there may be some brush barrier removal and placement of gravel on the existing trail. Ecology's biggest concern with making that area more accessible by a widened trail is that more paths to the pond to fish could be made through the existing intact wetland vegetation. Signage in the wetland area might discourage that behavior.

When Daniel and I were out there on March 16, water was coming from the river from the west into the parking lot. There wasn't a lot of force with the water; however, the potential mitigation area, the vault toilet area and the existing parking lot RV-pull-off area were partially covered by water. The pond also was overflowing into the area to the east. It would be helpful if the (WDFW) engineers/hydrogeologists could take a look at the Tieton River flow event frequency on that day to get a sense about how often this type of flooding occurs.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Shorelands/Environmental Assistance comments, contact **Catherine Reed** at (509) 575-2616 or email at catherine.reed@ecy.wa.gov.

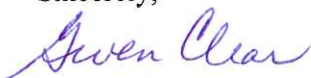
WATER QUALITY

Portable facilities permit coverage at construction sites. If a *portable* crusher, asphalt batch plant or portable concrete batch plant will operate at the site, the portable facility must have coverage under the sand and gravel permit for portable facilities. This permit covers industrial storm water and process water charges.

To apply for the permit, the proponent must submit an application electronically using Ecology's Water Quality Permitting Portal – Permit Coverage Notice of Intent (NOI) application, unless the applicant applies for and receives an Electronic Reporting Waiver from Ecology. Applicants that have received a waiver from Ecology must submit a completed and signed application to the appropriate regional Ecology office. To apply, click <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/sand/forms.html>. If the proponent does not have internet access, the proponent may call **Cindy Huwe** at (509) 457-7105 for application materials.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Quality comments, please contact **Pam Perun** at (509) 454-7869 or pamela.perun@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



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